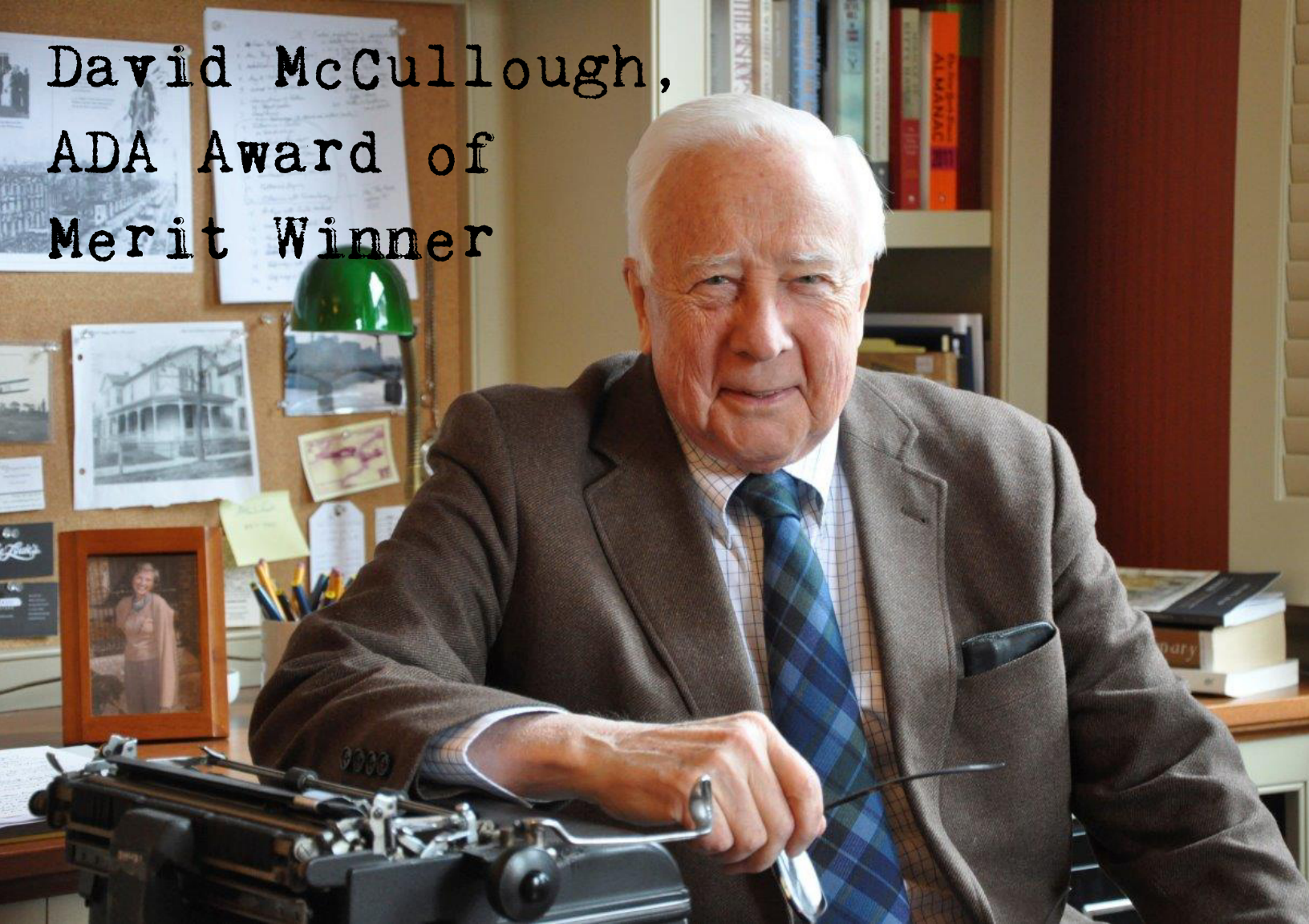


David McCullough,  
ADA Award of  
Merit Winner



Previous Page; The author in his study. In 1992, he told *The New York Times* that he worked on a manual Royal typewriter in an office the size of a tool shed behind his Martha's Vineyard farmhouse. Photo William B. McCullough, courtesy Simon & Schuster.

Right; McCullough, who these days lives in Boston, has assumed the role of paterfamilias in a country in need of steady, reassuring figures. Photo William B. McCullough, courtesy Simon & Schuster.

By Laura Beach

PHILADELPHIA, PENN. — Exhibiting at the Winter Antiques Show in 2012, Arthur Liverant looked up to see America's best-known historian, David McCullough, coming down the aisle. The Colchester, Conn., dealer had recently read McCullough's latest book, *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*. Eager to tell McCullough about a rare gold button for General Lafayette, a hero





DAVID  
McCULLOUGH  
THE  
GREATER  
JOURNEY  
AMERICANS IN PARIS



"An epic of ideas, as well as an exhilarating  
book of spells. . . . This is history to be savored."  
— STACY SCHIFF,  
*The New York Times Book Review*

*The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*, 2011, took a panoramic view of the American artists and intellectuals who traveled to France for inspiration in the Nineteenth Century.

of the American Revolution, that he had acquired the night before, Liverant pulled the two-time Pulitzer Prize winner aside. The men's chance meeting in time led McCullough to accept the Antique Dealers Association of America's (ADA) Award of Merit, to be at the Philadelphia Museum of Art on April 11.

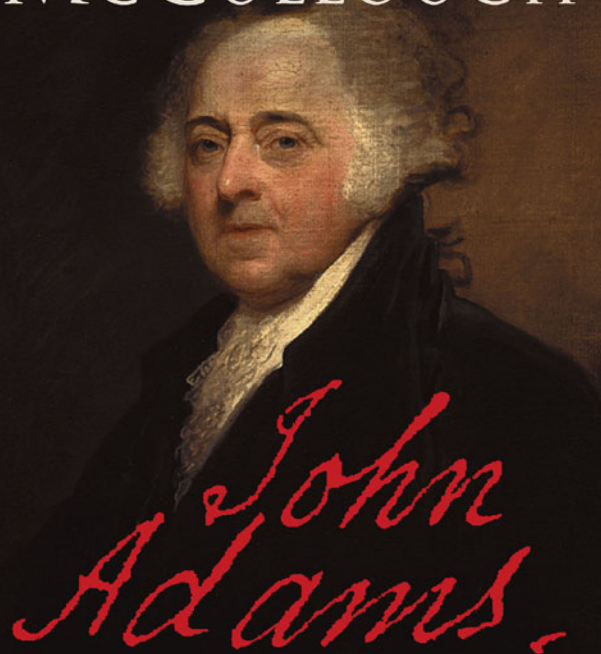
McCullough has hosted or narrated so many shows and documentaries and has so often been a guest in one public forum or another that the *Boston Globe* suggested that he might be the only Pulitzer winner who many Americans recognize by his spoken voice alone. McCullough has a talent for popularizing the past without cheapening or distorting it, a gift he has parlayed to critical

and financial success.

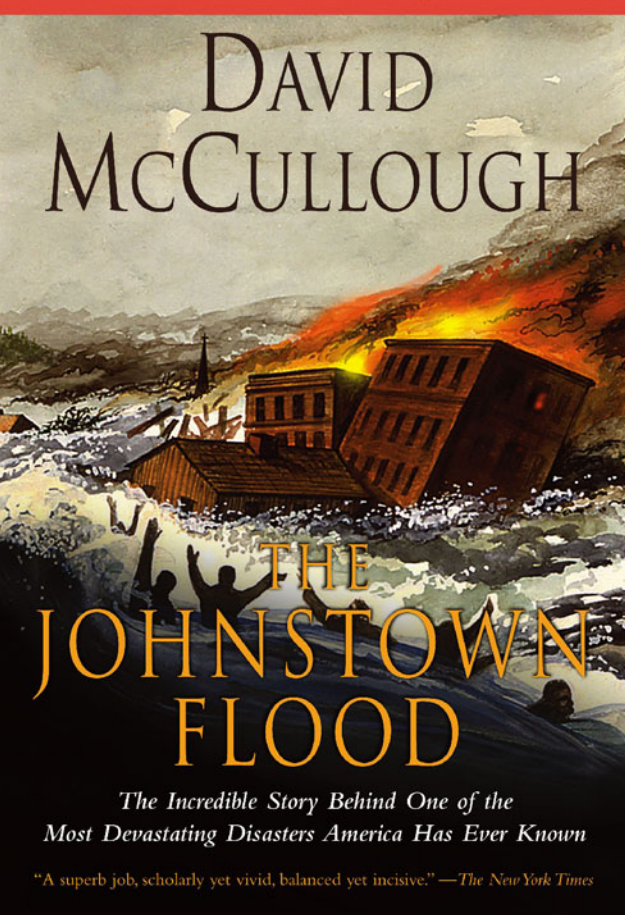
Disarmingly courteous with a snowy crown of hair and a modestly patrician way of dress, the Bostonian has assumed the role of paterfamilias in a country in need of steady, reassuring figures. He speaks in measured, well-formed sentences, a natural editor with a fine ear for language. His writing has a candor and simplicity about it that seems wholly American. In honoring McCullough, the ADA tacitly acknowledges the frustration many in the historical professions feel in an age of information overload and diminished attention spans. But the award is a hopeful gesture, as well, suggesting that those who love history and believe passionately in its

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

# DAVID McCULLOUGH



McCullough told the television interviewer Charlie Rose that the project he most enjoyed was *John Adams*, published in 2001. "It was such a privilege to keep company with those people. They set such a high standard for us."



McCullough's first book, *The Johnstown Flood*, grew out of a piece he wrote in 1966 while on staff at American Heritage magazine.

worth may learn from this consummate storyteller.

McCullough, who turns 82 this year, was reared in Pittsburgh and educated at Yale, a receptive spot for a young man of lively intellect. After Yale, McCullough spent a formative few years at American Heritage and retains his youthful admiration for its founding editor, Civil War historian Bruce Catton. He expanded an article he wrote for the magazine's June 1966 issue into his first book, *The Johnstown Flood*, published two years later.

“David McCullough was very much the leader of the move toward what some call popular

history. I think it is fair to say that, pre-1960, most leading academic historians thought that they would and should write for a general audience as well as for scholars. As the level of academic discourse rose and became more scientific in the 1970s through 1990s, most historians were no longer writing for general readers. There was an opening and McCullough seized it,” says Dr John Demos, an emeritus professor of history at Yale University, who will speak at the dinner.

The visual record was very much on McCullough’s mind when he began work on his new book, *The Wright Brothers*, which Simon & Schuster will publish in May. His fascination with the brothers grew out of his

# DAVID McCULLOUGH



“The Wright Brothers photographed everything that they did as a way of documenting the progress of their various experiments. They became keenly interested in photography as a consequence,” says McCullough, whose new book on the inventors is due in May from Simon & Schuster, his longtime publisher.





David McCullough's introduction to the Antiques Dealers Association (ADA) was through this 1825 gold button decorated with George Washington in profile. Photo courtesy Steven S. Powers.

research for *The Greater Journey*. McCullough was astounded to learn that interest in the Wrights' flying machine was initially greater in France than in the United States.

The author says, "Nobody in this country would believe that they had done it in 1903 and nobody took much interest in it. It is an incredible example of how blind people can be to what is right there as plain as the nose on their face. So the first flight that awakened the world to the fact that human beings can now fly took place in 1908 in France and that is when suddenly everything changed and the Wright brothers became the most famous people on earth."

Preceded by a reception from 5-7 pm, the presentation dinner starts at 7 pm. For tickets or information, [www.adadealers.com](http://www.adadealers.com) or 603-942-6498.